

罪得赦免

認信：罪得赦免，不單是論到上帝把人的過犯一筆勾銷，更是指上帝把人從罪惡的咀咒中拯救出來，使他不再被罪勞役。是以罪得赦免的第一個標誌是人的悔改。當一個人經歷罪得赦免，他便可以從昔日的罪疚中被釋放、又可以自由地赦免那些得罪他的人。

罪得赦免的盼望

- 以色列人清楚的明白到被擄和被壓迫是因為他們活在罪中。他們親身的知道，因著犯罪，他們失去了他們身份中最寶貴的東西——神的同在。
- 是以在先知對「新約」的盼望中，罪得赦免是重要的一環：
 - 新約的盼望：耶利米書 31:31-34
 - 聖靈的盼望：以西結書 36:24-28
- 從經文中看到了，以色列人盼望的，不單是上帝把帳目一筆勾銷（他們知道上帝不是一個「隨便」的上帝）。反而，他們盼望上帝把他們潔淨，使他們離開罪惡，以至上帝重新臨在於他們中間。
- 然而經文所論到的這盼望，不是在以色列人做到某條件後才兌現。從始至終，是上帝主動的應許赦免和潔淨。

悔改的生命

- 罪得赦免的標記是悔改的生命。悔改從來不是上帝赦免人的條件。是上帝白白的接受罪人。然而，一個真正經歷赦免的生命，卻必然是一個悔改的生命。

被釋放的生命

- 罪得赦免使我們可以從昔日的罪咎中被釋放出來。
- 在我們和昔日的罪咎之間豎立著十字架上的耶穌基督。我們要學習從十字架的角度去看自己、接納自己。

彼此赦免的生命

- 唯有經歷過赦免，我們才懂得赦免別人。
- 不赦免別人的人與他所受的赦免不相稱。

Forgiveness of Sin

Confession: Forgiveness of sin refers not to the mere cancellation of debt, but rather the deliverance of men from the curse and slavery of sin. As such, the first evidence of forgiveness is repentance. When a man truly experiences forgiveness of sin, he is released from his guilt, and can thus freely forgive those who sinned against him.

The Hope of Forgiveness

- Israel understands that the exile is a result of their sins. It costs them the defining distinctiveness of their identity: the presence of God.
- Consequently, the forgiveness of sin is at the very core of their national hope:
 - The New Covenant: Jer 31:31-34
 - The Hope of Spirit: Eze 36:24-28
- The verses speak of more than a mere “white washing” (Israel knows that her God is a just God). Rather, it speaks of a day in which God will deliver them from sin, reforming them, and thereby dwelling among them once again.
- However, this forgiveness is not predicated on something that Israel has to do and earn. Forgiveness of sin is solely initiated and effected by God.

Repentance

- The mark of forgiveness is a repenting life. Although repenting is not a precondition of forgiveness, but a man who has been delivered from sin has to be a repenting man.

Freedom from Guilt

- Forgiveness frees us from the guilt of our past.
- Standing between us and our guilt is the crucified Christ. We must learn to see ourselves through the lens of the cross, and to accept ourselves as Christ would have accepted us.

Forgiving Others

- Through receiving forgiveness we learn to forgive others. An unforgiving person has not truly tasted what forgiveness is all about.